

## CLAIMS

1. A water heater security system adapted to hold the water heater in a generally fixed relationship with an adjacent wall, the system comprising:
  - at least one strap assembly extending around at least a portion of the water heater;
  - at least one strap included in the strap assembly and having a first end and a second end;
  - the strap having a woven, flexible configuration free of sharp edges;
  - a first wall bracket attached to the wall on one side of the water heater;
  - a second wall bracket attached to the wall on a second side of the water heater opposite to the first side;
  - the first end of the strap having a fixed relationship with the first wall bracket; and
  - the second end of the strap having an adjustable relationship with the second wall bracket to permit movement of the second end of the strap between a first position wherein the strap has a first length between the first wall bracket and the second wall bracket, and a second position wherein the strap has a second length shorter than the first length between the first wall bracket and the second wall bracket.
2. The water heater security system recited in Claim 1, wherein the second end of the strap has a fixed relationship with the second wall bracket in both the first position and the second position.

3. The water heater security system recited in Claim 1, wherein:

the strap includes a first strap having the first end and an opposing third end, and a second strap having the second end and an opposing fourth end; and

the system further comprises:

a buckle for attaching the third end of the first strap in a fixed relationship to the fourth end of the second strap.

4. The water heater security system recited in Claim 3, wherein the buckle has an adjustable relationship with one of the third end of the first strap and the fourth end of the second strap.

5. The water heater security system recited in Claim 4, wherein the buckle has an adjustable relationship with the other of the third end of the first strap and the fourth end of the second strap.

6. The water heater security system recited in Claim 3, wherein the buckle further comprises:

a first portion of the buckle bent back on a second portion of the buckle and defining a channel therebetween; and

a slide engagable by the third end of the strap and movable within the channel to form a fixed relationship between the buckle and the third end of the strap.

7. The water heater security system recited in Claim 6, wherein the slide includes side flanges to maintain the slide in the channel.

8. The water heater security system recited in Claim 6, wherein the second portions of the buckle have side flanges to maintain the slide in the channel.
9. A buckle adapted to receive a strap end in an adjustably fixed relationship, comprising:
  - an inner portion disposed generally in a first plane;
  - an outer portion bent back on the inner portion and disposed generally in a second plane parallel to the first plane;
  - the outer portion forming a sidebar with the inner portion, the sidebar being generally parallel to the first plane of the first portion and the second plane of the second portion and having a first pair of strap engagement edges;
  - the inner portion and the outer portion defining with the sidebar a channel;
  - a slide movable within the channel generally parallel to the sidebar, the slide having a second pair of strap engagement edges whereby the strap can be threaded around the slide and cinched tightly to engage the strap with the first and second pair of strap engagement edges and thereby form the fixed relationship with the buckle.
10. The buckle recited in Claim 9 wherein:
  - the strap end is a first strap end; and
  - the inner portion of the buckle is adapted for attachment to a second strap end.

11. The buckle recited in Claim 9 wherein:

the strap end is a first strap end; and

the inner portion of the buckle is adapted for attachment to a wall.

12. The buckle recited in Claim 9 further comprising:

side flanges formed alternatively on the first portion of the buckle and the slide of the buckle.